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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 401
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Reverend Bill Sherman on his meritorious service to God and humanity.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary people of faith and humanity who work with purpose and conviction to make their respective communities better places to live; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Bill Sherman, Pastor of Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville, is most assuredly one such diligent public servant who is deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, a native Texan, Reverend Sherman hails from a rich Baptist heritage; and

WHEREAS, on his father's side of the family, his grandfather, George Sherman, and his great uncle, Frank Sherman, were Baptist preachers; on his mother's side of the family, his uncle, Henry Brannon, was also a Baptist minister; and

WHEREAS, in addition, his brother, Cecil Sherman, presently serves as pastor of the Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sherman's parents served a combined total of 101 years in Sunday school leadership, a record of which he is extremely proud; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sherman earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1954 from Baylor University, where he met and later married Veta Louise Cole; and

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WHEREAS, his seminary training was acquired at Southwestern Baptist Seminary, where he earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree and a Doctor of Theology degree in 1958 and 1966, respectively; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sherman's first pastorate was in the small Texas town of Malone at the town's Central Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, during the next few years, Reverend Sherman served with dedication and distinction at several churches in Texas and Oklahoma, before his singular skills were brought to the attention of the pastor-search committee at Woodmont Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, he began his exemplary thirty-year tenure at Woodmont Baptist Church on January 1, 1968; and

WHEREAS, during these thirty outstanding years, Reverend Sherman has served his congregation, his denomination, and the greater Nashville community with the utmost professionalism, faith, compassion for his fellow human beings and inspirational leadership; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his clerical duties, Reverend Sherman has given generously of himself to numerous charitable and civic organizations, including meritorious service as a member of the Metropolitan Board of the YMCA, Chairman of Urban Village for Rehabilitation of Juvenile Offenders; Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Chairman of Nashville Clergy in United Givers Fund; downtown Nashville Rotary Club; and Birthright Foundation of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, his excellence in all of life's endeavors has been appropriately recognized by his receipt of the 1990 "Citizen of the Year" award from the Nashville Civitan Club; the 1975 "Service to Youth" award from the YMCA; and the 1980 "Distinguished American" award from the Tennessee Chapter of the College Football Hall of Fame Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sherman has faithfully served his denomination at every level and on every possible occasion; and

WHEREAS, on the national level, he has served astutely as a trustee and director for the Home Mission Board, Christian Life Commission, and the Baptist Foundation; and

WHEREAS, on the state level, he has served with distinction as a member of the Executive Board, Trustee of Belmont College and president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, he presently serves as an advisory editor of the New Interpreter's Bible for Abingdon Press; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sherman is indeed fortunate to share love and companionship with his wife, Veta, and their three fine children and their spouses, Donny and his wife, Tena; Debbie and her husband, Timothy Siktberg; and David and his wife, Beverly; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sherman has recently announced his intention to answer the tantalizing call of retirement in order to pursue his many and varied interests; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Reverend Bill Sherman upon his thirty years of devoted service to the good people of Woodmont Baptist Church and the greater Nashville community and recognize his peerless career as a pastor and civic leader on the occasion of his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we most sincerely thank Reverend Sherman for his compassionate service to God and humanity. We are confident that he will continue to be a valuable asset to his community no matter what path his endeavors may take.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Reverend Sherman, with this final clause omitted.